ISI Activities in Assam

246. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ISI activists, apprehended in Assam during last six months, their official status and the action plan, as revealed from interrogation/recovered documents;

(b) the action taken against the persons apprehended and to prevent such activities in future;

(c) whether a nexus of ISI with extremist organisations of NE has been detected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) According to available information, 4 ISI agents and 14 pro-ISI activities have been apprehended in Assam during the last six months. They are facing trial. Action plan as revealed through interrogation/recovered documents points to recruitment of uneducated and semi-literate Muslim youths and their training in Pakistan for creating disturbances in assam and other parts of India, as also to launch a "Jehad" for creating a separate land for Muslims comprising of Assam and certain other parts of North-Eastern States.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Interrogation reports of arrested terrorists and ISI activists have revealed a nexus between the ISI and extremists organisations in the North East. ISI provided training facilities, supply of arms and ammunition and directs certain activities of the extremist organisaitons in the North East.

Poppy Trade Money For Militancy

247. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Economic Times dated 5th April, 1999 that ISI is pumping money earned from poppy trade to increase militant activities in J&K, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the mattery

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government is aware of the media report.

(b) Government is alive to situation and have aopted a multi-pronged strecegy to compat and frustrate the designs of ISI. This includes gearing up intelligence machinery, modernization and upgradation of police, border fencing, intensified border patrolling, improved border management includingsetting up of border outposts, huetralizing plans of militants activicies in hinterland etc. Besides the enforcement agencies related to drugs have been asked to keep utmost vigil and to step up enforcement of stringement provisions of NDPS Act. BSF and Coast Guards have also been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotics drugs on the border in addition to Central and state enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

Reserved Battalion in **Tripura**

248. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minsiter of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to assist the Tripura. Government for raising of two reserved battalion in the State; and

(b) if so, by when this decision would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No decision has yet been taken by the Govt, on the requests of the state Govts, for raising of IR Battalions including that of state Govt, of Tripura.

(b) Does not arise.

Sati Ritual at Mahoba

249. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pelased to state*

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported re-enactment of the barbaric ritual of SATI at Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh; and